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RITUAL

OF THE

ORDER OF THE IRON HALL

WITH

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

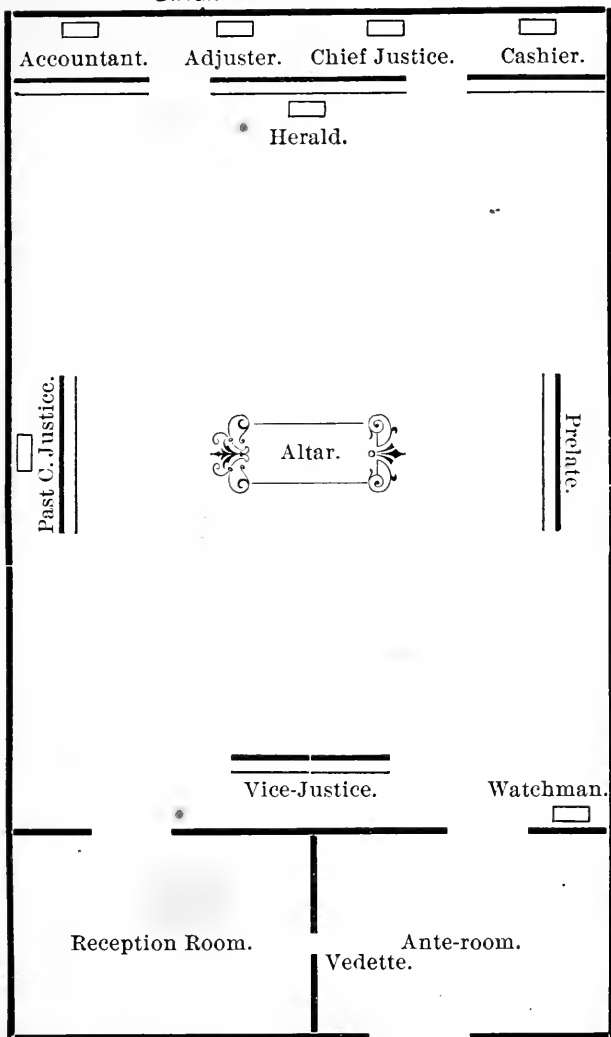
AND

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

INDIANAPOLIS:
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1891.



DIAGRAM OF BRANCH HALL.



SIUC
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OPENING CEREMONY.

[The Chief Justice will take her seat and call the Branch to order, and rising, will say:]



C. J.—Herald, you will apply the test to all present and satisfy yourself that all are entitled to the privileges of the Order of the Iron Hall.

Herald (*after investigation*)—Chief Justice, all present are of the *true metal*.



OPENING ODE.

C. J.—The Prelate will now invoke the Divine blessing :

OPENING PRAYER.

Almighty Father, Creator and Ruler of the Universe and Director of the destinies of men, we thank Thee that Thou hast again permitted us to assemble at this time for the transaction of the business of our Order. We beseech Thee to preside over our deliberations; aid us to so guard our lives and actions that the bonds of union which unite us may be strengthened; grant us Thy protection as we journey amid the dangers of life's pathway, and imbue us with a true spirit of forbearance toward each other as Thou dost forbear with us. Help us to so live that when done with this world and its cares we may be received into and dwell in Thy Kingdom, and to Thy name be all the honor, praise and glory forever. Amen.

C. J.—Friends, advance the sign of this Order.

C. J.—The Branch is ready to proceed.

[Which is repeated by the Vice-Justice.]



ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading unapproved records.
2. Introduction of visitors.
3. Reading petitions for membership.
4. Reports of Investigating Committees.
5. Determining the worthiness of petitioners.
6. Introduction of strangers.
7. Reception and disposition of bills, communications, etc.
8. Reports of committees, including Committee of Relief and Trustees.
9. Does any one know of a member sick or needing assistance?
10. Are there any dues or assessments due the Branch?

[If the Accountant answers in the affirmative, the C. J. may declare a recess for the settlement of arrearages.]

11. Is there any Reserve Fund unloaned? Cashier will please answer.
12. Are there any assessments due the Supreme Sitting from this Branch? Cashier will please answer.

13. Unfinished business.
14. New business.
15. Is there any member out of employment?
16. Good of the Order. Has any Friend anything to offer?
17. Report of Accountant, giving General, Benefit and Reserve Funds separately.
18. Has the Cashier received the same.
19. Calling roll of officers.



Closing Ode.

C. J.—Friends, advance the sign.

C. J.—I now declare this Branch adjourned until
——— night, at ——— o'clock.



[First, second, third or fourth.]

[Hours for opening a Branch, May to October, inclusive, 8 o'clock P.M.; November to April, inclusive, 7:30 o'clock P.M.]

INITIATION.

[The Herald retires and introduces the stranger, presenting her at once to the Prelate, who offers the following:]



INITIATORY ODE.

INVOCATION.

O, Thou Great Jehovah, who didst create and adorn earth; Thou who hast provided so bountifully all things necessary for the support and comfort of all mankind, grant Thy blessing upon us at this time, and do Thou especially impress this stranger who desires admittance into our Order with the solemn responsibilities of the obligation she is about to take, and grant that she may find acceptance with us, and enjoy our future prosperity. Amen.

C. J.—Herald, conduct the stranger to this chair for instruction.



C. J.—Stranger, your petition for membership having been properly presented, duly executed and favorable action taken thereon by the members of this Branch, you are entitled to membership in this Order, and thus secure to yourself all the rights, benefits and privileges thereof: *Provided, however,*

That you shall first voluntarily take upon yourself the obligations, and pass through all the ceremonies of our Order without hesitation, and be successful in mastering and overcoming all difficulties. Shall we proceed?

Stranger—We shall.

C. J.—Herald, conduct the candidate to the altar for obligation.



[The stranger is conducted to the altar, placed so as to face the Vice-Justice, and places both hands, palms downward, upon the Constitution and Emblem of the Order—which is printed on the cover—when the Vice-Justice will advance to the altar and administer the obligation (not to be repeated by the candidate).

V. J.—Do you, in the presence of the Most High, who created the Universe, and all living things, in infinite goodness and wisdom, and conducts all things with justice and forbearance, and in the presence of these witnesses, solemnly affirm and sincerely promise that you unite with this Order of your own free will and accord, and with pure motives? and do you also solemnly affirm that you will never betray or communicate any of these secrets or ceremonies, or any part thereof? and do you further affirm, that you will never violate this obligation, and will not, either in consideration of gain, interest or honor, nor with good or bad designs, take more than is justly your own from any member of this Order, nor permit it to be done by others? Do you further promise and affirm that you will not take any of the secret work of this Order, should any be in printed form, from this hall, unless as an officer thereof? Do you further most solemnly promise and affirm that you will support and abide by the Constitution and

General Laws of the Supreme Sitting, and all the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this or any other Branch of the ORDER OF THE IRON HALL of which you may be a member? All this do you most solemnly promise, with a fixed and steadfast purpose to keep and perform the same, under the penalty of being forever debarred from all the rights and privileges of the Order? Do you so promise and affirm? What is your answer?

Stranger—I do.

C. J.—Herald, conduct the stranger to this chair for further advancement.

OBLIGATION ODE.



C. J.—My friend, the following instructions will enable you to work your way into a Branch hall:

Approach the outer door and give an alarm thus.* The Vedette will respond, to whom you will give semi-annual password, which for this term is ———. If given correctly, you will be admitted to the ante-room, where you will invest yourself with the Emblem of the Order, which is to be worn in a conspicuous place on your person. Then approach the inner door and give one knock. The watchman will open the wicket, to whom you will give your name, rank and the number of the Branch to which you belong, and communicate in a whisper the permanent password, which is———, when you will be admitted to the hall. You then advance to the center of the room, facing the Chief Justice, who will recognize you by poising the gavel perpendicularly, hammer

uppermost, in this manner——. You will about face, and be recognized in the same manner by the Vice-Justice, stationed at the opposite end of the room, after which you will be seated. Should you wish to retire during the evening, arise in your place and advance the sign to the Vice-Justice, which is made in this manner——. If in order, that officer will answer by poising the gavel, when you can retire. In visiting another Branch you will give your name and the number of the Branch to the Vedette, who will admit you to the anteroom, and report the same to the Chief Justice, when that officer will appoint a committee to retire, examine and introduce you in proper form.



My friend, we hope you will remember these instructions, that you will endeavor to be present at all our meetings, and that you will ever have in mind our motto—Union, Protection and Forbearance. I now present to you the laws of the Order that you may become familiar therewith. (*Presents Constitution and Laws.*)

C. J.—Herald, you will conduct the stranger to the Vice-Justice, for the closing charge.

V. J.—My friend, you have thus far traveled well the circuit of our Branch. The lessons of our Order are to be plainly presented, and their importance must be impressed upon all who enter here. The various fraternities composing the ORDER OF THE IRON HALL have one common object—which is protection to those we love and have promised to protect. The expensive experiences of the past have taught us the value and worth of our noble Order, thus grouped together in unison of purpose, to extend to

all worthy members, coming from all parts of the world, a material protection, a life blessing and a sure reward. Let me impress upon you, as you love and admire the motives, to remember your obligations and protect its principles.

C. J.—Herald, retire to the anteroom with the stranger and give instructions how to enter the hall.

[Herald retires to the anteroom with the stranger and instructs her how to enter the hall. After salutation both will face the Chief Justice who will then ask the following questions:]

C. J.—My friend, you have assumed an obligation which you have promised to hold sacred forever. Was the obligation read in your hearing in the anteroom before being admitted, and did you give your assent thereto?

[Answer.]

C. J.—Do you remember any portion of that obligation?

[Answer.]

C. J.—I now present to you the same obligation, with the request that you in the presence of the members of this branch assembled, shall sign said obligation in recognition of its acceptance by you.

[The candidate will then sign the obligation record. The Friends will be instructed when the signature is affixed, to all exclaim, "We have all witnessed your signature to this obligation." The Chief Justice will then order the Herald to present the stranger to the Past Chief Justice for the closing charge.]

P. C. J.—My friend, you have passed through our ceremonies, and consented and affirmed to all requirements made of you. That you may prove yourself

worthy of membership in the ORDER OF THE IRON HALL it is necessary for you to be faithful in complying with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations thereof. Be firm, steadfast and immovable, and be careful at all times and in all places to consider the solemnity and binding force of the obligation you have voluntarily taken upon yourself. If it is essential that you always keep your dues and assessments promptly paid, that you may be kept in good standing; for, while forbearance is one of our mottoes, justice to our membership demands that you, as well as those who have preceded you, should be prompt in the payment of all moneys due the Branch of which you may be a member.

C. J.—Herald, you will now present our friend to the Accountant's desk that she may sign the roll-book of membership.

[Candidate will now face the members.]

O O O

C. J.—Friends, I now introduce to you——, as a member of the ORDER OF THE IRON HALL, and declare a short recess that you all may be able to extend a hearty welcome.

O

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

FOR SISTERHOOD BRANCHES, ORDER OF THE IRON HALL.

[All things in readiness, the Supreme Herald will say:]

Supreme Herald.—Chief Justice, the Supreme officers are present and ready to proceed with the installation ceremonies.

Supreme Justice.—Chief Justice, by authority of the Supreme Sitting of the ORDER OF THE IRON HALL, we are here to install your officers for the current year. You will please direct the present officers to surrender their respective stations to the Supreme officers, and you take your seat as Past Chief Justice for the current term.

Chief Justice.—Officers of Sisterhood Branch, No.—, you will surrender your stations to the Supreme officers that they may proceed to install our officers.

S. J.—Supreme officers you will now take the respective stations of the officers of this Sisterhood Branch.

S. J.—Supreme Herald, you will now proceed to the arrangement of the officers-elect.

[Before the ceremonies are commenced the Accountant of the Branch shall furnish the Supreme Herald with a written list of the elective officers, and certifying as to their eligibility and the filing of their bonds, after which the Herald will say:]

S. H.—Officers-elect, by command of the Supreme Justice, you will come forward as your names are called, for obligation.

[They will be seated in a circular form in front of the Supreme Justice.]

S. H.—Supreme Justice, in obedience to your command, I present to you the elective officers of this Branch for instructions.

O O

S. J.—Friends, do you each accept the office of this Branch to which you have been elected?

Officers.—We do.

S. J.—Members of this Branch, do you all consent to this installation?

Members.—We do.

S. J.—Officers-elect, do you promise to faithfully comply with the Constitution and laws of the Supreme Sitting, and the Constitution and By-Laws governing Local and Sisterhood Branches, to the best of your ability, and render due obedience to those in authority over you, and deal justly and impartially with the members of this Branch?

Officers.—We do.

S. J.—You will each hold up your right hand, using your name where I use mine, and repeat after me the following obligation of office:

O O O

I, ———, in the presence of the members of this Order assembled, do solemnly promise and affirm that I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability to the end of the present term. I will support, maintain and abide by the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Supreme Sitting of this Order, and the Constitution and By-Laws of this Sisterhood Branch. I will guard the interests of this Sisterhood Branch in every respect, as required by a faithful performance of the duties of my office. All this I promise to fulfill, unless prevented by sickness or some unavoidable circumstance, and to all this I pledge my sacred honor.

O

[When instituting a Sisterhood Branch, the Junior Past Chief Justice will take the obligation with the other officers and

The Supreme Justice will say: "Herald, you will conduct the Past Chief Justice to her Station."

The Herald will then conduct the Past Chief Justice to her station and say:

"Junior Past Chief Justice, you have been honored by this Branch by election to the highest position that can be given by it. I trust you will ever be ready to meet the requirements which may be made upon you by reason of the holding of this honorable station."

S. J.—Herald, you will conduct the Chief Justice to a seat at the right hand of this chair and impart the instructions.

S. H.—Chief Justice, by command of the Supreme Justice, allow me to conduct you to your station. Permit me to present to you the badge of your office, which you are privileged to wear at all times, but let me impress upon your mind that much is depending upon you, and that it is your duty to deal impartially with all. I present you with the Constitution and Laws governing the whole Order. Take

them as your guide; make yourself and membership familiar with them during your term of office; study carefully the duties laid down for you, for a lack of their enforcement would do great harm to the Order, as well as to yourself. Bear in mind that other demands not mentioned in the Constitution and Laws will be made upon you, and that it is your duty to always hold yourself in readiness to meet them, and have in remembrance our motto—"Union, Protection and Forbearance."

[Herald conducts each officer to her station, before delivering the charge. In conducting the Vedette to her station leave the inner door open.]

S. J.—You will conduct the Vice-Justice to her position.

S. H.—Vice-Justice, by command of the Supreme Justice, I have conducted you to your station. I will remind you that you have several important duties to perform. The door is placed under your charge, and you should see that it is guarded by a Watchman, and that your assistance to the Chief Justice will always be needed. Take this Constitution and study its contents well. Always be in readiness to assist the officers and members of this Branch. I now present you the badge of your office. I trust you will wear it with honor to yourself and profit to this Branch.

S. J.—Herald, you will conduct the Accountant to her desk and deliver the instructions.

S. H.—Accountant, you have been elected to an important position in this Branch. I present to you the books of this office. It is your duty to keep them in a perfect and correct manner. Study carefully

your duties as laid down in the Constitution and Laws of this Order, and never lose sight of the responsibility devolving upon you. I now present to you the badge of your office, and trust that you will always keep yourself in readiness to surrender it, together with your books and papers, to your successor with as much honor to yourself as you have received them.

S. J.—Herald, you will conduct the Cashier to her station, and give the instructions.

S. H.—Cashier, you have been elected to a responsible position. I now present you the books of your office. May you always keep them correctly, and be prompt in responding to the demands made upon the treasury, for, upon your failure, you would bar the membership of this Branch from their benefits. I now present to you the badge of your office, and trust you will be able to surrender it with as much honor as you have received it.

S. J.—Herald, conduct the Adjuster to her station with instructions.

S. H.—Adjuster, you have been elected to an important position. It is your duty to look carefully over the affairs of this Branch, and immediately report to the higher authorities any illegal working of the same. Examine all loans and papers, and see that they are in legal form. I now present to you the badge of your office. I trust it will always remind you of your duties.

S. J.—Herald, conduct the Prelate to her station.

S. H.—Prelate, you have been elected by the members of this Branch as a superior officer, and, as such,

to you the Branch will look for such instructions as are needed, and for prayers that are to be offered up to the Deity. I now present you with the badge of office. Let it it ever remind you of your duties.

S. J.—Herald, you will conduct the Herald to her station.

S. H.—My friend it has been made my duty by the higher authorities to conduct you to your station and deliver to you the badge of your office. May you ever wear it with honor to yourself and this Branch. Always be at your post, and be at all times ready to conduct strangers through the ceremonies of our Order.

S. J.—Herald, conduct the Watchman to the inner door.

S. H.—Watchman, by command of the Supreme Justice I have conducted you to this station. It is your duty to guard well the entrance of this Branch. Never allow any one to pass through the arches in your care who is not legally entitled to do so. I now present to you the badge of your office. May you never violate the confidence it imposes on you.

S. J.—Herald conduct the Vedette to the ante-room and instruct her.

S. H.—Vedette, as authorized, I conduct you to this station. Although a back appearance it may have to you, let me say it is an important position in this Branch. Look well to your duties. Always report any one of whom you have any doubts as to their eligibility. Always seat the visitors in the ante-room and report them to the Chief Justice through the Watchman.

*By the powers vested in me by the Supreme Sitting, Order of the Iron Hall, I now declare the officers of Sisterhood Branch No. —, duly installed and authorized to enter upon their respective duties for the present term or until their successors are elected and installed.

O

*If a new Branch the Supreme Justice will say: By the powers vested in me by the Supreme Sitting of the Order of the Iron Hall, I now declare Sisterhood Branch No. —, of the Order of the Iron Hall, duly instituted and having all the powers of a Sisterhood Branch, and the officers duly installed and authorized to enter upon the several duties of office for the present term, or until their successors are elected and installed.

The issuing of Dispensations in form has been dispensed with in this Order, and if you prove to work successfully for ninety days or more, a Charter will be due you and issued by the Supreme Sitting.

